

and Red Cross drives. In addition, the library must be prepared to meet the new demands that are sure to arise as conditions thruout the country gradually return to normal. Libraries will have many new borrowers—men who acquired the reading habit in the trenches or in camps, on ships or in hospitals or prisons, and it should be their first consideration to give these borrowers the right books at the right time. These new borrowers will not be content with a few new novels and out of date science and uninteresting non-fiction, and it is to be hoped that they will insist that the library be given an adequate income and that then it render service at least for value received.

THE TRAVELING LIBRARY SYSTEM

When a free public library has been established in every town in North Carolina books will have been placed within the reach of about three hundred thousand people. There will yet be over one million two hundred thousand without access to a public library, and it is for the benefit of this large proportion of our population that the legislature of 1917 made an additional appropriation of \$4,000 for the equipment and operation of traveling libraries.

The traveling library system serves various purposes in the development of the educational and social life of the state. The regular traveling libraries furnish reading for improvement and recreation to all in the community; they aid social life by providing the center around which groups gather for study and discussion; they promote community life and spirit. The school libraries are of great help to teachers in school houses where few books are found and furnish supplemental reading to text books in history, literature, geography, agriculture and other subjects. The debate libraries supply schools and debating societies with the best material on political, social, educational and other questions; giving an incentive to debating in many schools and revolutionizing the work in others. The general reference collections and the special collections supply individuals and clubs with an incentive and a means of study.

Briefly, the traveling library system provides library facilities for the country and for small towns and supplements the meagre collections of the smaller libraries.

During the biennium the general traveling libraries were in constant demand and during the winter months the demand far exceeded the supply. People all over North Carolina are gradually learning about these libraries. Many who have not been in the habit of reading are beginning to read as two letters recently received indicate. One is from Gaston county and the other from Franklin.